

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

United States of America)	
)	Cr. No. 1:11-2132
vs.)	
)	
Franklin J. Farrell, Jr.,)	ORDER AND OPINION
)	
Defendant.)	
_____)	

On June 8, 2020, Defendant Franklin J. Farrell, Jr. filed a pro se motion for compassionate release to home confinement¹ pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A)(I). Under § 3582(c)(1)(A), the court, on motion of a defendant after (1) fully exhausting administrative rights to appeal a failure of the BOP to bring a motion on his behalf, or (2) the lapse of 30 days from the receipt of such a request by the warden of the facility, whichever is earlier, may reduce the term of imprisonment.

The First Step Act mandates the defendant exhaust administrative remedies prior to seeking relief in this court. *See Ross v. Blake*, 136 S. Ct. 1850, 1857 (2016) (finding “mandatory exhaustion statutes . . . establish mandatory exhaustion regimes, foreclosing judicial discretion”); *United States v. Monzon*, No. 99cr157, 2020 WL 550220, at *2 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 4, 2020) (denying motion for reduction of sentence because defendant failed to exhaust his administrative remedies, but declining to decide whether exhaustion requirement is jurisdictional). Defendant does not allege he has made such a request to his warden, or exhausted his administrative remedies under § 3582(c)(1)(A).²

¹ The court notes that, while it may have jurisdiction to reduce a sentence under § 3582(c)(1)(A) in certain circumstances, the Attorney General and the Director of the Bureau of Prisons have sole authority to release an inmate to home confinement. See section 12003 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (2020).

² Defendant must first apply to his Warden, and, if he receives a denial within 30 days, must appeal the Warden’s denial to the Regional Director within 20 days and continue to appeal any denial until his administrative remedies are exhausted. See 28 C.F.R. part 542, subpart B. If the Warden does not act on the request within 30 days from its receipt, Defendant may reapply to this court.

Because the BOP has not brought this motion, and Defendant has not alleged he exhausted his administrative remedies, his motion for compassionate release (ECF No. 564) is **denied**, without prejudice.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/ Margaret B. Seymour
Senior United States District Judge

Columbia, South Carolina

June 17, 2020